

THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF MRS. OLIVER BELMONT IN HER GREAT SOCIETY FIGHT.

The Social War
Waged by the Van-
derbilts, the Belmonts
and the Astors at New-
port This Summer.

She Has Put Her
Two Big Houses
in the Market
and Now She Is
Going Abroad.

REPUDIATED BY THE WHOLE VANDERBILT CONNECTION.

Mrs. Belmont has been repudiated by the whole Vanderbilt connection since March 5, 1895, when her suit for divorce from W. K. Vanderbilt was successful. One of the most notable events of the Newport season was the marriage of Harry Payne Whitney to Gertrude Vanderbilt. From this as from all other big Vanderbilt entertainments at Newport this season Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont was absolutely excluded.

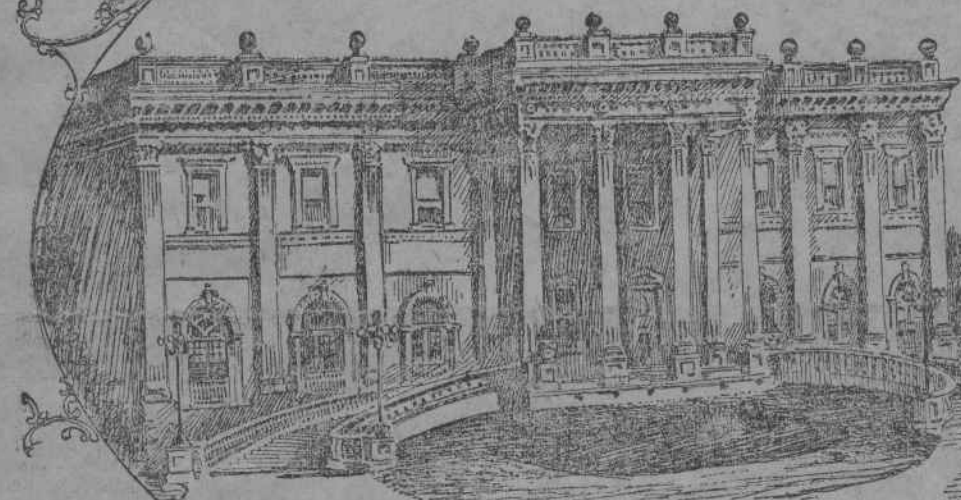
IGNORED BY ALL THE BELMONT FAMILY.

The Belmont family, consisting of Mrs. S. S. Howland, Perry Belmont and August Belmont and his wife, has boycotted Mrs. Oliver Belmont. Perry Belmont deliberately excluded Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Belmont from his big reception. At the family celebration of the victory of Lake Erie, given at Belcourt, September 8, not one of the Belmont family responded to the invitation of Mrs. Belmont to attend the concert. It was a complete repudiation.

THE GUT DIRECT FROM MRS. ASTOR.

Mrs. Astor ignored Mrs. Belmont in issuing invitations to her dinners here and in Newport, but invited O. H. P. Belmont's first wife as well as Perry Belmont. Another of the great social affairs this Summer was the coming out ball of Miss Van Alen, given by Mrs. Astor, to which the swiftest of the Newporters were invited. Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont was not invited.

FOR SALE



MRS. BELMONT
MARBLE HOUSE
AT NEWPORT.



THE MADISON
AVENUE MANSION.

FOR SALE



The sudden departure of Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont from Newport.

The putting up at auction of her carriage and harness in this city.

The advertising of the sale of her town house here.

The fact that the great marble palace at Newport is in the market, and

The determination of herself and her husband to go abroad for a long time has only one significance.

Mrs. Belmont's war against the powerful social set at Newport this Summer has been a failure.

The position she set out resolutely to maintain against all odds since her divorce from William K. Vanderbilt and her marriage to Oliver Belmont has met with a complete collapse.

"Those who are not with me are against me," she said. And the great, rich and powerful old Newport set is not only not with her, but emphatically against her. Hence her sudden exit and declaration not to spend the Winter in New York.

As Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt she organized and led the most ostentatious, the most extravagant, the most talked-about set of fashionable society which this country has ever possessed. But now, as Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the old and wealthy families, who never liked her, have used all their vast influence to humiliate her, and to add to her mortification, she has even been repudiated by exclusive circles of her own creation.

Her campaign, undertaken single-handed, but with matchless social talents and great wealth upon her side, has failed in its object. She sought to re-establish herself as Mrs. Belmont in the position she occupied as Mrs. Vanderbilt, and to make herself again the high arbiter of New York and of Newport society. The Vanderbilts, the Astors, the Belmonts and Mrs. Ogden Mills, and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish and other leaders of the younger fashionable set, have come out ahead in the quarrel.

Mrs. Belmont has yet left numerous friends who still stand by her as they can, but their strength is as nothing against the forces that have been arrayed against her.

A year and a half ago Judge Barrett signed the decree which divorced her husband, William K. Vanderbilt. To-day, after having been married by Mayor Strong to a man whose first wife secured a divorce from him, she finds her strength so weakened that she fully realizes that she no longer exerts her old authority in spite of her matchless social talents and of her great triumph in marrying her daughter to the Duke of Marlborough.

Then, too, her position has always been due more than anything else to money—plenty of it to spend as she fancy dictated. But what is her alimony from the Vanderbilts and her income from Oliver Belmont's one million to the colossal wealth of the whole Vanderbilt connection alone—to say nothing of the other multi-millionaires who are her enemies. And in her present position, without millions at her back, what can she do? Only succumb. So she has.

When, early in 1895, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt sued her husband for divorce, all the Vanderbilt family took sides against her. Their power and wealth were such that from March 5, 1895, when the decree was granted, the other most influential sections of New York society were inclined to be neutral.

During the Summer of 1895 Mrs. Vanderbilt opened a campaign in Newport in an effort to make her position sure, which was brilliantly successful. Her trump card was the young Duke of Marlborough. He was presented at a grand ball given by Mrs. Vanderbilt at Marble House, the splendid palace given to her by her former husband, and all of Newport flocked thither.

It was commonly understood at the time that a marriage was likely to be arranged between Mrs. Vanderbilt's daughter and the Duke, and within a few weeks this was formally announced. Even then it was also whispered that a marriage between Mrs. Vanderbilt and Oliver H. P. Belmont was not unlikely to occur.

Nevertheless, the elixir of the Marlborough engagement was such that Mrs. Vanderbilt was regarded as still safe in her position as one of the greatest leaders of Newport society, which she maintained during the early Winter months in this city. The Marlborough nuptials excited a commotion that kept society in this city in a state of excitement for many weeks, and kept her, too, still a desirable person to cater to. Then came the Horse Show, where she and the young, stolid Duke and the new Vanderbilt Duchess were in the boxes, and the great throngs jammed and pushed and punched each other to get a glimpse of them. The whole thing was vulgar and disgraceful, but Mrs. Vanderbilt was still in the foremost of the fashionables.

But the Marlboroughs once married and off, she took a step more daring than anything she ever before attempted. She was married to Mr. Belmont, January 9, of this year, and almost immediately went abroad. Divorced, and opposed by the whole Vanderbilt family, she had kept herself solid at Newport, in spite of all opposition up to then. Directly after she went to Europe. She returned this Summer at the opening of the Newport season. The question on every lip was could she do it again?

In the Summer of 1895 she was fighting alone. It is true, but her position from a legal-religious standpoint was secure. She had merely divorced her husband. But this year she had married a man in precisely the same position as that of W. K. Vanderbilt to-day. Now she had not only all the Vanderbilts, but all the Belmonts set against her, and both families were equally bitter and pitiless.

The Vanderbilts, the Astors and the Belmonts have extensive and intricate social connections running like a network

through the organized society of Newport and New York. In numbers and in aggregate wealth they are vastly superior to all the forces Mrs. Belmont could bring to bear against them. But in social talent, in the qualities of genuine leadership, in resource and generalship, not one member of any of these families is her equal. The war of and against Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont has lasted a little over three months.

She arrived from Europe with Mr. Belmont June 23, and immediately proceeded to Newport to open the campaign. Up to that time her previous career had been one continued series of successes, of brilliant triumphs, of dazzling social achievements. She was the Napoleon of social warfare, the unconquerable. She was untrammelled by conventions, original and daring in her conceptions, regardless of many old and rigid forms.

She thought she could do as she liked. Again and again she had taken the field against overwhelming odds, with everybody and everything against her, and won with ease.

Beginning with nothing but latent talent, she had made herself a ruler of New York and Newport society. Her power was felt in every drawing room and her name was in every society report. It was these facts which led many people to look for a short and speedy triumph when she began her campaign in Newport this past Summer. Merely from fear many powerful factions sided with her at first, so great was the superstition connected with her name and the social power she was supposed to exert even in England through her daughter, the Duchess of Marlborough.

But there was one thing which Mrs. Belmont either overlooked, ignored or regarded with contempt. That is the feeling which permeates even the Four Hundred about divorced persons. Not only was her former husband still living, but the wife of her second husband was alive, and what was worst of all, this second husband was the divorced wife. It was for this reason that Mrs. Vanderbilt and Mr. Belmont could get no clergyman to marry them—because in the eyes of the Episcopal Church, to which they both belonged, no valid and binding marriage was possible between them. So they went to Mayor Strong, who married them.

Thus she began her campaign under a serious handicap.

But she evidently thought that her will was stronger than any church rules, and that although the majority of Newport's fashionables belonged to the Episcopal Church she could set its dictates at naught.

Another thing that she had to contend with was a strong personal objection on the part of many of her former acquaintances. She had made a great many enemies. While she was backed by all the wealth of the Vanderbilt family and supported by its members in her social career,

these enemies were driven under cover from sheer fright. Her position was too strong and powerful to allow of a successful war against her. These people, however, bided their time, and when the campaign opened in Newport, early in July, they were all found openly arrayed against her.

At the same time, while she had bitter enemies, she possessed devoted friends. These were people who were attracted by her personality and who were drawn to her by many years of intimate friendship. It was already known at this time that the Vanderbilt family had boycotted her.

Mrs. Vanderbilt, then Mrs. Willie K. Vanderbilt, recently divorced, had ignored the Vanderbilts when she married her daughter to the Duke of Marlborough. Not one of them was invited to the wedding. The word had gone forth from the house of Cornelius that the Vanderbilts should stand together and have nothing more to do with this woman, although she it was who had raised the Vanderbilts from social obscurity to the greatest prominence.

Then there came a dinner given by Mrs. Astor, the first of a series. Not only was Mrs. Willie K. not invited to this function, but Mrs. Astor, in order to emphasize her position in the matter, invited Oliver Belmont's first wife and her sister. Perry Belmont was likewise invited to another dinner, but Oliver Belmont was ignored. Thus it was apparent at the opening of the Newport season that the Astor and Vanderbilt families and their powerful connections would be against this social agitator.

The great question was, however, What would the Belmonts do? Mrs. Belmont said again, "Those who are not with me are against me," and it was expected that if only for the sake of appearances the Belmont family would stand neutral at least in her war against the partisans. This, however, was a bad mistake.

The first suspicious thing that occurred was the recall of cards issued by Perry Belmont just before Oliver Belmont and his wife were married in order, as was supposed, that his reception could be postponed till the newly married couple came home. He could thus show the world his sympathy. These cards were subsequently issued, but Oliver Belmont and his wife were not among the recipients. That deflated the position Perry was to take.

But the most striking proof of the ignoring of the Ollie Belmonts by the members of the Belmont family occurred at Newport September 8. That is the anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, from the hero of which the Belmonts are descended through their mother, and it has been a laudable custom in the family for many years to celebrate the event in a public fete at Newport. It was the turn of Ollie Belmont to give the celebration this year. Mrs. Belmont gave a gorgeous dinner, followed by a concert and a fine display of fireworks on the grounds of Belcourt. The

grounds were thrown open and the public invited to witness the fireworks.

But no member of the Belmont family came either to the dinner or to the concert, or even to look upon the fireworks. Then it was at last definitely known everywhere in Newport that Mrs. Belmont was being boycotted by the members of her husband's family, and that the Belmonts had, in fact, arrayed themselves on bloc with the Astors and the Vanderbilts.

Mrs. Astor gave her first Newport dinner at "Beechwood" July 29. Perry Belmont was among those present, but Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont were not.

There was a great turning out of the whole Vanderbilt connection on August 23 upon the occasion of the marriage of Harry Payne Whitney to Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt, but in the issuing of invitations Mr. and Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont were distinctly cut.

At all of Miss Leary's Thursday afternoon musicales, which were thoroughly representative of Newport society, Mrs. Belmont's absence was very noticeable.

Perry Belmont gave a big dinner at By-the-Sea on August 28. This was in honor of his cousin, Miss Tiffany. The most fashionable people in Newport were present, but O. H. P. Belmont and his wife were not.

And so it went during the whole round of festivities. The word had gone forth that none of the Astors, Vanderbilts or Belmonts was to be brought into the presence of the Ollie Belmonts, and the utmost care had to be exercised in issuing invitations to see that no awkward meetings took place.

Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. I. Townsend-Burden, Mrs. Prescott Lawrence and Mrs. Calvin S. Brice, all gave series of dinners during the season. But it was noticed that they strictly avoided asking any of the Belmont or Vanderbilt connection upon the occasions when they entertained Mr. and Mrs. "Ollie." The latter appeared most frequently at gatherings of "the newer people," who had only a limited acquaintance with the Vanderbilts, the Astors and the Belmonts.

Among the last of the big social events at Newport was the reception to Lord and Lady Russell, given by Mrs. Henry D. White. Because of the large number of invitations issued, it was supposed that everybody of importance in Newport society would be present. But no invitation was sent to the Ollie Belmonts. That was the last snub, for the Belmonts left just before the affair came out and hurried South.

What is called "the Hempstead set" has also shown signs of warfare against Mrs. Belmont at Newport this Summer. This set consists of the younger married women, most prominent among whom are Mrs. Ogden Mills and Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish. Mrs. Ogden Mills is a sister of Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, of England, and is an exclusivist of the strictest sort, believing

in cutting down the 400 to less than 150. She hates Mrs. Belmont.

She has been active in organizing the opposition, and is regarded as one of her most energetic opponents. She can extend her power to England, too, whether it is said Mrs. Belmont will take her departure soon after the Autumn horse show in this city, and where her influence can be directly felt, for it is common rumor that no invitation to visit Blenheim Palace has been received from the Duchess of Marlborough. The latter has been busy all Spring and Summer entertaining widely both in London and at Blenheim, and a round of gayeties is on foot for the coming Winter. The Duchess of Marlborough was in Rome when she heard of the marriage of her mother to Mr. Belmont, and after receiving the news she was laid up in bed for several days. It is said to have been a blow from which she was a long time in recovering.

At the same time it is reported that the Duke of Marlborough has expressed a weariness of being made use of to bolster up the social aspirations of his wife's connections. In England he is surrounded by a powerful anti-American set, headed by his aunt, the Duchess of Buccleuch, and his mother, Lady Blandford, and among whom are Lord Deerehurst, Lord Arthur Butler, Colonel Carrington and Sir John Lister-Kaye.

Even the late Duke of Marlborough, father of the present Duke, was ostracized in London society because of his divorce, and the Queen would never receive at Court Mrs. Hanersley after she married him. If this were done with an English Duke and his American wife, it is asked what possible chance there can be in English society for a doubly divorced American couple like the Ollie Belmonts. The Newport campaign having failed, it is believed by many that Mrs. Belmont may undertake a sally in England, but the opinion of Newport society is that the task is hopeless.

With her biggest prop, the Duke of Marlborough, gone, with a reduced income, with Newport and New York society against her and the record of one colossal and lamentable failure staring her in the face, people in society ask: Is this the end of Mrs. Belmont? Has Alva Smith reached the end of her rope? Has the great Vanderbilt family finally triumphed in ridding itself of her and of driving her into retirement? These are questions that only the future career of Mrs. Belmont will serve to answer.

JACK WILL HAVE TURKEY.

Sailors and Marines at the Navy Yard Are Preparing for Their Usual Thanksgiving Day Festivities.

The sailors and marines on the Cob Dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, are beginning

their preparations for the usual Thanksgiving Day observance on the receiving ship Vermont, at the Marine Barracks, and the tournament of athletic sports which always follows the big turkey dinner. It is hoped to have a bigger observance this year than ever. The sailormen have started well in advance of the day to arrange for the festivities. They have saved money in order that there may be plenty to eat and drink.

It may seem strange to some that the sailor, that nomad of the seas, whose only home is in the forecastle of some ship well out at sea, should be interested in the observance of a holiday which appeals more directly to those who enjoy good homes. But the sailor is human as well as any one else, and no one can better appreciate the opportunity of sitting down to a good dinner and good cheer than he. No matter what part of the world he may be in, whether his ship lies snug at anchor in port or is out amid the storms of the ocean, Jack is sure to find a white tablecloth to cover his ordinarily bare board, and some dainties to take the place of salt horse and boiled beans.

The sailors on the Vermont, at the Navy Yard, enjoy many luxuries that are denied their brethren at sea. They do not taste government rations from one year's end to another. They live much better, in fact, than many people on shore. But how they do spend themselves on Thanksgiving Day! What mountains of roast turkey, what great sens of cranberry sauce disappear before the sharp appetites of these blue-jackets and their friends invited from shore!

The programme this year will be closing up on board ship from 6 to 9:30 a. m. The men will then put on their best military clothes and go to "quarters." After inspection by the executive officer, the remainder of the day is their own. At 10 o'clock there will be Thanksgiving services in the chapel on the dock and up on the spar deck of the ship. There will be services for both Catholics and Protestants.

Dinner will be served at 1 o'clock. Besides turkey and cranberry sauce, there will be plum duff, dear to the sailorman's stomach, and great home-made mince pies. The tables will be decorated with flags and every man will have a napkin.

Following the dinner there will be smoking and story telling. Some of the sailors are sure to dance the hornpipe on deck. Then will come the games. There are always dozens of starters, judges, referees and official timekeepers and scorers. The races will last nearly all the afternoon, and they are open to any one wishing to enter them. Foot races, sack races, potato races, chasing greased-pigs, leaping, hurdle races, throwing weights, wrestling matches, and other forms of amusement will take up the time. There will be cash prizes for nearly every race, and they are sure to be hotly contested.